



## Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: May 6, 2009

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: LACOE Head Start  
10100 Pioneer Blvd.

Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

**Members in Attendance:** (25) Rocio Bach, Lisa Wilkin for Ancelma Sanchez, Peggy Sisson, Atalaya Sergi, Joy Cyprian, Alan Guttman, Carol Hiestand for Kathleen Pompey, Holly Reynolds, Nellie Rios Parra, Lorraine Gutierrez for Corrine Sanchez, Lucy Fitzpatrick, Holly Daasnes, Michael Ladjevic, Pat Mendoza, Patti Oblath, Nurhan Pirim, Sarah Soriano, Jenny Trickey, Fran Chasen for Julie Taren, Ofelia Medina for Angelica Solis, Dianne Philibosian, Kate Andersen, John Berndt, Lloyd Kajikawa for Jan Isenberg, and Tara Henriquez for Randi Wolfe

**Guests and Alternates:** Rebecca Patton, Kathy Schreiner, Susan Savage, Eileen Friscia, Sally Valenzuela, Charline Lang, Melina Sanchez, Katie Alidadi, Elaine Waldman, Barbara Holtwick, and Carolyn Wong

**Staff:** Laura Escobedo

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Reynolds, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:16 p.m. She welcomed the group and read the opening statement. She asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

### II. Approval of Minutes from the April 1, 2009 meeting

**The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2009. Dianne Philibosian moved to approve; Fran Chasen seconded the motion. The vote was called; motion was approved without abstentions.**

### III. Office of Child Care Update

Laura Escobedo stated that in conducting a preliminary self-review for the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) an area needing improvement was the review of policies related to how contractors use it. Since the CEL is a project under the oversight of the Planning Committee, she would like to form a steering committee to plan and implement a policy review process before the end of 2009.

Secondly, she informed the group of a pilot initiative of the California Department of Education (CDE) aimed at reducing the amount of unused funds in each county. CDE has asked the Local Planning Council (LPC) Coordinators to act as brokers among contractors who either are likely to under-earn or over-earn their contracts. Contractors would voluntarily agree to reduce/increase contract amounts temporarily in a single fiscal year. The paperwork describing the reduction or increase in amounts would be packaged by the LPC coordinator and submitted to CDE for approval. Participation is voluntary, temporary, and will not affect the amount of the contract in the following year. A management bulletin describing this initiative will be issued by CDE in about a month.

### IV. Presentation: Gateways for Early Education

Patti Oblath, Connections for Children and the Santa Monica Child Care Task Force, spoke about the project as an initiative of the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (Alliance), which is comprised of the 13 Alternative Payment (AP) agencies, 10 of which also have Resource and Referral (R&R) programs. She explained the huge number of contacts the Alliance agencies have with parents and providers each year. The Alliance recognizes the various challenges that providers have for increasing their education and skills, such as language barriers, inaccessible locations for training, and limitations on time.

Gateways is intended to address these challenges in order to improve the outcomes for children by addressing the training needs of providers. By linking together the training and support available

from each R&R, they hope to create a seamless, integrated and accessible system of professional development.

The overall plan includes 40 hours of professional development in key child development topics currently provided throughout Los Angeles County; child development coaches for on-site technical assistance; career coaches to help with formal education planning; an e-portfolio to record completed training and education; and an e-calendar of training opportunities. The e-calendar is actually completed and available at the Alliance Web site. The calendar lists the training available through all the R&Rs and includes information about whether a training event will help in meeting the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) standards. On-site coaching is currently available through the Child Care Initiative Project. The Alliance is seeking funding to expand this and provide the other elements of its professional development plan.

The Alliance is hoping to work with other entities to add links to other training calendars and resources.

#### V. Approval of Revised Zip Code Priorities

Alan Guttman, co-chair of the Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment Work Group, presented the recommendations from the Work Group with assistance from Laura Escobedo. He explained the new process for determining priorities that the Planning Committee had endorsed last fall. The Priorities for General Child Care includes the children who are 0 to 12 years old and compares estimated demand with current service levels in center-based, latchkey, full-day State Preschool, Family Child Care Home Education Networks, AP programs, and CalWORKs Child Care Stage 2 and Stage 3. Priorities for preschool are determined using three to five year old children in low-income families with at least one parent in the home and compares demand with services through Head Start, State Preschool (half-day), Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)'s School Readiness Language Development Program (SRLDP). Example zip codes with their respective priorities were provided. The recommendations for the priorities would be operative for 2009-2010.

**Peggy Sisson moved to approve the recommendation of the Work Group for the new center-based priorities. The motion was seconded by Fran Chasen. The motion passed with no abstentions. Lisa Wilkin moved to accept the recommendations for priorities for the half-day preschool program; it was seconded by Patti Oblath. The motion passed with no abstentions.**

#### VI. California Community Foundation (CCF) Civic Engagement Activities

Melina Sanchez, Field Director of the Los Angeles Preschool Advocacy Project for CCF, described current grant-making activities related to Early Childhood Education (ECE). CCF has supported Constructing Connections LA and has made civic engagement grants to community groups that are working to advocate for greater investments in ECE. Among these are Families in Schools (A Preschool Advocacy Tool Kit); Long Beach Child Care Task Force, which is working with its local council to include ECE in the legislative agenda of the city and with its business leaders; and the Asian Pacific Islander Policy Advocacy Network.

CCF has convened a coalition of groups for the purpose of connecting local leaders to statewide initiatives and to build a concerted Los Angeles County voice on ECE issues. The overall goal for these efforts is to increase access to programs and services by raising public and policy makers' awareness.

#### VII. Early Care and Education City Leadership and Advocacy Project

Ofelia Medina of the Alliance for a Better Community (ABC) spoke about the project her organization is implementing under the Civic Engagement funding through CCF. The project goals are to promote investments in quality early care and education as an economic and workforce

strategy using the Planning Committee's Economic Impact Report. The strategy is to make direct contact with civic leaders in specific targeted communities including: Bell, Bell Gardens, Pomona, South Gate, Cudahy, El Monte, and parts of Los Angeles.

The first attempts have met with some challenges including identifying the right person to speak with, a lack of interest in the message, and a perceived lack of funds on the city's part. Due to this early experience, ABC has now formed a coalition with two other groups which are also attempting to meet and work with the same cities. LAUP and Public Counsel have formed a partnership with the ABC so that they can jointly address civic leaders from these communities and share their messages.

#### VIII. Membership Recruitment and Nominations

Those in attendance were reminded that they must submit their applications for continuing membership by May 7, 2009. The election of Vice Chair and approval of the membership roster will take place at the June meeting.

#### VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

Elaine Waldman and Elizabeth Holtwick of the Department of Public Health provided an update on the H1N1 flu virus. They explained that this strain of flu is actually mild, such as the strains that we see each winter. Those most likely to be affected adversely are very young children and older adults. Otherwise, someone may actually have the virus and not feel very ill at all. They urged the group to use precautions (lots of hand washing, sneezing and coughing into the crook of an elbow, etc.) to minimize the risk of catching the virus and to stay home if ill. The County has not advised closure of schools and child care and development centers.

Holly Daasnes reminded the group that temporarily she will be the only Community Care Licensing (CCL) advocate for all of California until CCL hires another person to handle Northern California.

The Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children's conference is May 16, 2009 in Glendale.

Diá de los Niños, will be held April 25, 2009 at Belvedere Park. There will be many activities for children.

#### IX. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.